

MONTANA'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

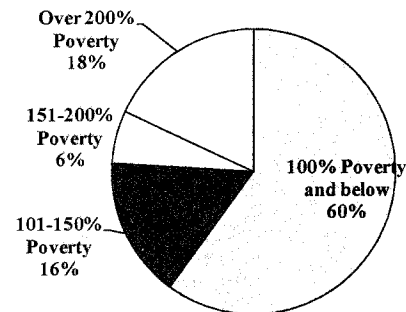
What are Community Health Centers?

Community Health Centers (CHCs) are local, non-profit, community-owned health care providers serving low income and medically underserved communities. For over 40 years, the national network of health centers has provided high quality, affordable, primary care and preventive services. The comprehensive services offered at health centers include "family doctor" services, as well as dental, pharmaceutical, mental health and substance abuse services. Also known as "Federally Qualified Health Centers, CHCs are located in areas where care is needed, but scarce. They improve access to care for millions of Americans and thousands of Montanans regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. Cost of care in CHCs ranks among the lowest, and the need for more expensive in-patient care and specialty care is reduced saving billions of dollars for taxpayers.

Who do Community Health Centers Serve?

In 2007, almost 80,000 Montanans received services at a Community Health Center. Health center patients are among Montana's most vulnerable populations – people, who even if insured, would nonetheless remain isolated from traditional forms of medical care because of where they live, who they are, and their higher levels of complex health care needs. Patients are disproportionately low income, uninsured, or publicly insured. As the figures demonstrate, 60% of Montanans served at health centers have family incomes **at or below poverty level** (\$17,600 for a family of three in 2008), and a full 72% have incomes at or below 200% of poverty. Moreover, 54% of those served at Montana's Health Centers are **uninsured**, while 14% are Medicaid recipients and 9 percent are covered by Medicare.

**MONTANA HEALTH CENTER PATIENTS
BY FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, 2007**



How do Community Health Centers Make a Difference?

Health Centers are governed by local boards that must have health center patients as a majority of members. Active patient management of health centers assures responsiveness to local needs. National standards for health centers help to guarantee quality care that is comprehensive and cost effective. CHCs improve the quality of life for patients and communities in the following ways:

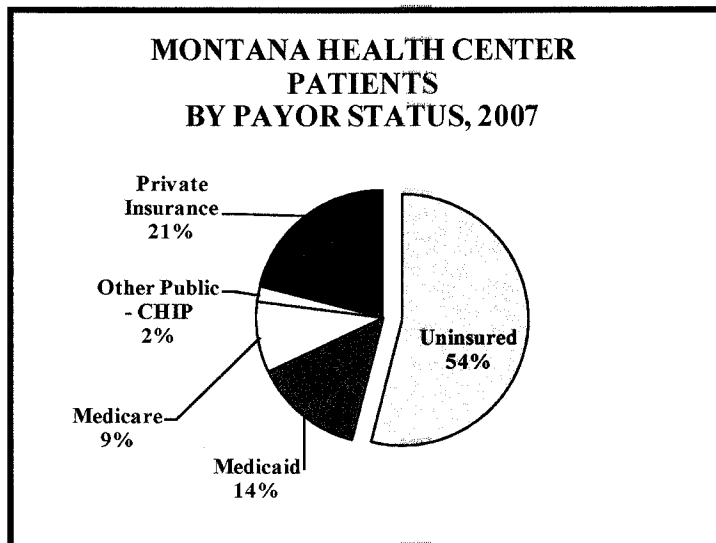
- Improve access to primary and preventive care.** Health centers provide preventive services to vulnerable populations that would otherwise not have access to services such as immunizations, health education, mammograms, pap smears, and other screenings. Low income and uninsured health center patients are much more likely to have a usual source of care, are much less likely to have unmet medical needs, and are much less likely to visit the emergency room or have a hospital stay than those without a health center.
- Provide cost-effective care.** Care received at health centers is ranked among the most cost-effective. Studies find that health centers save the Medicaid program around 30% in annual spending for health center Medicaid beneficiaries, due to reduced specialty care referrals and fewer hospital admissions.
- Provide high quality care and effectively manage chronic illness.** Multiple studies show that the quality of care provided at health centers is equal to or greater than the quality of care provided elsewhere.
- Create jobs and stimulate economic growth.** Health centers are local businesses, provide good jobs, and help stabilize communities. In addition, Community Health Centers bring federal dollars to Montana – CHCs have brought over \$119,914,674 in federal grants to Montana since 1985.

Cited by the General Accounting Office as "One of the top 10 Government Programs."

CHC QUICK FACTS

Montana Community Health Centers serve

- One of every 12 Montanans
- One of every 3 Uninsured Montanans
- One of every 3 Very Low Income Montanans (below 100% Federal Poverty Level)
- One of every 5 Low Income Montanans (below 200% Federal Poverty Level)
- One of every 7 Montana Medicaid Recipients



The Community Health Center Model of Primary and Preventive Care

- Family doctor/dentist care
- Preventive action/education/health screening throughout all stages of life:
 - Children—(ex. immunizations/car seats/tooth brushing)
 - Teens—(ex. drugs, alcohol, smoking, speeding risks)
 - Middle age—(ex. nutrition/smoking risk/exercise/breast, cervical, prostate screening/diabetes screening)
 - Elderly—(ex. accident prevention/medication management)
- Early detection of problems
- Effective treatment or management of chronic conditions

Both the Institute of Medicine and the General Accountability Office recognize health centers as models for screening, diagnosing, and managing chronic health conditions.



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The Montana Primary Care Association Helps Communities

- Evaluate their primary care delivery system
- Get ready to apply for RHC certification, an FQHC look-alike, or Community Health Center grant
- Apply
- Start Up
- Do Well
- Expand

Montana Community Health Centers

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